

# App Store

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Praise God all the time.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will identify a time or place where they will remember to praise God everyday this week.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Colossians 3:15-17, Give Thanks Always

### **INTRO:**

The Internet and smartphones have changed many things in our lives. We already talked about how there's no need to be plugged into the wall to make a phone call. We can answer our smartphones any place we go, no wires needed! We can also send text messages and emails, surf the Internet without being plugged into a computer attached to the wall, and play an entire arcade's worth of video games right in the palm of our hand.

One industry that has been completely transformed by these devices is the music industry. Thirty years ago, if you wanted the new album by your favorite band, you had to wait for it to come on the radio, and there was no guarantee your favorite band's song was going to play. Sure, you could buy the song or even the entire album, but you couldn't do that on your phone. You had to go to a record store and buy it! People had huge collections of tapes, CDs, and vinyl records in their homes. Any time they wanted to hear their favorite song, they had to walk to the shelf, pull out the album or tape, put it on the record player or in the cassette player, and wait for it to play.

Sounds complicated, right? That's because you all have grown up in an age where music is available at the touch of a screen. All you need is an app like Spotify, and you can be listening to your favorite song with only a few simple movements of a finger.

Spotify gives you access to thousands of songs, artists, and albums. You can hear any style of music, from jazz to rock to hip-hop to bluegrass to polka. You can tell Spotify if you like a song or dislike a song and it will remember. Spotify can keep your music streaming to you for as long as you want to listen.

Kids, we have a God who loves music too.

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In particular, he loves to hear songs of praise. That's what makes Spotify such a neat app. We can set it to play praise songs and hear an endless stream of praise!

## **READ COLOSSIANS 3:15-17**

### **MAIN POINT:**

Paul tells us that we need to be constantly focusing on God. We need to do all that we do in His name and for his glory. We need to be thanking him and praising him all the time for the things he has done.

I can't think of a better tool for keeping our hearts focused on God than an app that can stream praise songs to our hearts, but the truth is, we don't need an app to make that happen. We can praise and sing to God anywhere we go. We can praise God with songs from our lips or in our heads. We can do it at home, in the car, at school, on the soccer field, anywhere we go. We can praise God all the time and keep our minds focused on Jesus.

### **DRIVE IT HOME:**

It isn't easy keeping our focus on Jesus all the time. I know all of you come from busy families and have busy lives. Seems like every day there's a practice or a game or something that we have to get to, doesn't it?

Busyness is no excuse for not focusing on Jesus. If anything, the busier we are, the more we need to focus on Christ. We need to continually remind ourselves of the good things that God has done for us and praise his name, filling our hearts with Jesus as much as we can. We need a stream of praise flowing into our lives.

Streams never stop flowing. A stream, by definition, keeps going on and on and on, whether it's music or water or praise. We need a stream of praise because when we're going through our busy day, we tend to "leak." We can very quickly forget about God and forget why we love him. But if we keep the stream of praise flowing in our hearts, we can send a never-ending stream of love back to God that will keep our hearts filled with Jesus.

This week, I want all of you to let a stream of praise flow through you. Praise God in the morning, at school, after school, and at night. Praise him with your favorite Christian songs, on a phone, in the car, or just in your head. Praise God every spare moment you can get, and soak in his goodness. All that praise will help you stay focused on Jesus, no matter what you do.

Praise God always. Praise him with a stream of songs. Let's keep the praise songs flowing, and fill our hearts and minds with Jesus.

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**CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Help us to always remember to praise your name.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*